

The Hon M. A. Vaile M.P.  
Deputy Leader National Party  
Minister for Trade  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

9 May 2005

Dear Minister,

**Re: Free Trade Agreement with China**

The Abalone Council Australia Ltd ("the ACA") is the peak organisation representing almost all abalone licence and quota holders in Australia. The ACA considers issues of a national or international significance that affect the Australian abalone industry.

The ACA's membership consists of organisations which have support from a majority of participants from each State's abalone industry. The Australian abalone industry faces considerable anti-competitive tariffs and barriers to entry to markets in relation to abalone export trade to China.

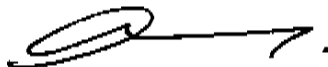
The ACA is supportive of the Commonwealth Government's intention to seek a Free Trade Agreement ("FTA") with China, and especially in relation to abalone products.

The ACA is keen to see the abolition of all tariffs and import duty placed on Australian seafood imports into China, particularly abalone. At present import duties of between 10% – 14% are placed on abalone imports into China.

The ACA would like to have secured a free trade system that offers greater access to Australian abalone exporters and provide greater returns on products, thereby increasing valuable export earnings to abalone producing states and the Nation.

Thank you for considering this matter.

Yours sincerely



**Michael Tokley**  
Chair  
Abalone Council Australia Ltd